

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5494

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 1262

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON TECH IAEA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SAFEGUARDS DISCUSSION AT FEBRUARY BOARD
MEETEING

REF: A. STATE 15445 B. STATE 018789

1. EKLUND HAS NOT MADE DECISION NOT TO INITIATE A DEBATE
ON SAFEGUARDS AT FEBRUARY BOARD. INTERESTINGLY, SOVIETS
HAVE RETHOUGHT THE MATTER AND NO LONGER WISH THE SAFEGUARDS
DEBATE. THEY TOLD EKLUND THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO OPEN
A SAFEGUARDS DISCUSSION PRIOR TO NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE IN
MAY.

2. IN LIGHT OF JAPANESE INTEREST IN CREATING TECHNICAL
SAFEGUARDS COMMITTEE (REF B), EKLUND DOES PLAN, HOWEVER,
INDICATE HIS INTENTION TO CREATE SUCH A COMMITTEE. THIS
WILL BE DONE IN GENERAL TERMS IN HIS OPENING REMARKS TO BOARD.
SOVIETS HAVE IN THE PAST INIDCATED SOMETHING
LESS THAN FULL SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL
SAFEGUARDS COMMITTEE BUT WE ASSUME EKLUND CAN CONVINCE
THEM THAT THIS IS NECESSARY IN CONTEXT OF SECURING
JAPANESE NPT RATIFICATION. EKLUND HIMSELF IS, OF COURSE,
NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SUCH A COMMITTEE BUT IS NOW
RECONCEILED TO POLITICAL NEED FOR CREATING IT HE ALSO
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FEELS EASIER ON THE QUESTION NOW THAT JAPANESE HAVE

AGREED COMMITTEE SHOULD REPORT TO DG RATHER THAN BOARD.

3. AGENCY IS WORKING ON COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WE HAVE PROVIDED SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REF B. DG DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND DISCUSS SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE AT FEBRUARY BOARD, IN FACT, COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE CREATED UNTIL IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT JAPANESE RATIFICATION PROCESS IS MOVING FORWARD. SECRETARIAT HAS IN THE MEANTIME ASSURED US THAT WE WILL HAVE CHANCE TO COMMENT ON DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET'S CHANGE OF HEART WITH RESPECT TO SAFEGUARDS DEBATE AT FEBRUARY BOARD PROBABLY RESULTS FROM THEIR OVERRIDING DESIRE TO SECURE BOARD APPROVAL OF SPANISH SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, UNCOMPLICATED BY EXTRANEOUS DEBATE, RATHER THAN THEIR STATED REASON TO AVOID A POSSIBLY CONTROVERSIAL BROAD-RANGING SAFEGUARDS DEBATE PRIOR TO NPT REVCON. SPANISH AGREEMENT, WHILE ADEQUATE FOR ITS PURPOSE, DOES NOT CONFORM IN ALL RESPECTS TO THE DESIRABLE TEXT OF A MODEL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT UNDER INFCIRC 66. SOVIETS WOULD CLEARLY PREFER HAVE THE DEBATE ON MODEL AGREEMENT OCCUR AFTER THE SPANISH TEXT HAS BEEN APPROVED. NEITHER WE NOR AGENCY HAVE, INCIDENTALLY, YET FATHOMED WHY BOTH SPAIN AND SOVIETS ARE PRESSING SO URGENTLY FOR APPROVAL SPANISH AGREEMENT AT FEBRUARY BOARD. PORTER

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